

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 78

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5806

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV,PINT, PINS, PFOR, CB, US

SUBJECT: FAREWELL CALL ON LON NOL

REF PHNOM PENH 5741

1. DURING MY FAREWELL CALL ON THE MARSHAL MARCH 31, I TOLD HIM THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SUGGESTED THAT I NOT GO TO THE AIRPORT TOMORROW TO SEE HIM OFF (REFTEL). I SAID THAT I WOULD BE HAPPY TO DO SO AND THAT I WAS NOT IN ANY WAY WORRIED ABOUT ROCKETS OR ARTILLERY FIRE AT THE AIRPORT. IF HE SO DESIRED, I WOULD BE HAPPY TO ATTEND HIS DEPARTURE FROM POCHENTONG AIRPORT, WHICH WOULD BE SYMBOLIC GESTURE OF THE TIES WHICH HAVE LINKED OUR TWO COUNTRIES FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS. CONTRARY TO WHAT PRIME MINISTER HAD TOLD ME OVER THE WEEKEND, THE MARSHAL READILY WELCOMED THIS IDEA AND I INTEND TO BE AT THE AIRPORT TOMORROW AT 11 A.M. WITH FLAGS FLYING.

2. IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION , THE MARSHAL INDICATED THAT AFTER HIS VISIT TO INDONESIA HE WOULD FIRST GO TO HAWAII AND THEN ON TO THE EAST COAST. HE MIGHT FIRST STAY AT HOME OF "LITTLE BROTHER" NEAR WASHINGTON BUT FOR THE LONG RUN HE PLANS TO "BUY A COUNTRY HOUSE ON THE WATER SOMEWHERE NEAR NEW YORK" WHERE HE CAN LODGE HIS ENTIRE SUITE. HE INQUIRED WHETHER THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD HELP HIM IN LOCATING SUCH A PLACE. I REPLIED THAT I WAS SURE THE AMERICAN

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AUTHORITIES WOULD DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO FACILITATE

HIS SOJOURN IN THE US.

3. I ALSO STRESSED THAT HIS DEPARTURE WOULD HOPEFULLY NOT LEAD TO ANY LESSENING OF KHMER DETERMINATION, BUT THAT IT WOULD HELP TO BRING TOGETHER ALL KHMERS SO THAT AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE OPINED THAT HE DID NOT THINK HIS DEPARTURE WOULD AFFECT ADVERSELY THE MORALE OF FANK AND HE AGREED THAT ALL EFFORTS MUST NOW BE MADE TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WHICH HE HOPED WOULD PRESERVE SOME OF THE BASIC VALUES FOR WHICH THE REPUBLIC HAS FOUGHT OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

4. COMMENT: FROM MY CONVERSATION WITH THE MARSHAL TODAY, IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT HE IS STILL VERY UNDECIDED ON WHERE HE IS GOING TO SETTLE IN THE U.S. AND HOW. HE HAS A SUITE OF 26, I BELIEVE, AND OBVIOUSLY IT WILL TAKE A LARGE HOUSE TO ACCOMMODATE ALL OF HIS ENTOURAGE. ALL OF THESE MATTERS WILL PROBABLY BE SORTED OUT WHILE HE IS IN HAWAII UNDERGOING MEDICAL TREATMENT AND WHEN PEOPLE CAN DISCUSS WITH HIM THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES. LON NOL IS ACCUMSTOMED TO GETTING ADVICE FROM AMERICANS, OR AT LEAST HAVING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES LAID OUT FOR HIM. IF EVERYTHING IS LEFT UP TO HIM ALONE, WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION, HE IS LIABLE TO PRESENT HIMSELF WITH HIS SUITE IN WASHINGTON ONE DAY, ASKING WHAT HE SHOULD DO. I THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN HAWAII HIS ONWARD TRAVEL PLANS BE DISCUSSED WITH HIM IN A CONCRETE MANNER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM05806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750110-1047
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975032/aaaaabjq.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 PHNOM PENH 5741
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAREWELL CALL ON LON NOL
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, PFOR, CB, US, (LON NOL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006